released only after ascertaining that the funds earlier released had been properly utilized for the purpose they were meant, through Utilisation Certificates, Audited Statement of Accounts, Project Action Plan etc. In addition, after a Watershed Project received 45% of the Project cost, it is mandatory that a Mid-Term Evaluation of the Project gets conducted by an independent evaluator. The next instalment to the Project is released only when the Evaluation Report clearly indicates satisfactory performance of the Project and utilization of funds as per the approved work plan.

In the case of Watershed Projects implemented through NGOs by the Council of Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART), there is a system of physical audit of its programmes in the form of a three-tier monitoring system by independent monitors *viz.,* pre-funding appraisal before sanctioning a project, mid-term evaluation during the implementation of the project and post evaluation after completion of the project. This system adopted by CAPART has prevented misuse of funds for the programmes.

Assistance for development and reforms facility programme

†2174. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to provide Central assistance to States to implement the development and reforms facility programme;

(b) if so, what is the blue print of the above programme; and

(c) the State-wise details of amount proposed to be given or allotted during the financial year under the aforesaid programme by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M. K. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Planning Commission, which is implementing the Development and Reform Facility Programme (Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana), has informed that 25 most backward districts in the country have been identified for implementation of the Programme during the current year, on pilot basis. The list of these districts, State-wise, is enclosed at the Statement *(See* below). The State Government is responsible for

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

preparing the district-wise plans for the works to be taken up in these districts. The additionality is to be used for schemes which fulfil the main objectives of the Development and Reform Facility to address the problems of low agricultural productivity, unemployment and to fill critical gaps in physical and social infrastructure.

(c) Each of the backward districts so identified has been allocated Rs. 15 crores during the current financial year.

Statement

Districts selected for Pilot Phase of Backward Districts Initiatives in 2002-2003

SI.No	Name of the State	Name of the district
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Adilabad Warangal
2.	Chhattisgarh	Bastar Dantewada
3.	Gujarat	Dangs
4.	Jharkhand	Lohardaga Gumla Simdega
5.	Karnataka	Gulbarga
6.	Kerala	Palakkad
7.	Madhya Pradesh	Barwani Mandla West Nimar (Khargone)
8.	Maharashtra	Gadchiroli Bhandara
9.	Rajasthan	Banswara Dungarpur
10.	Tamil Nadu	Tiruvannamalai
11.	Uttar Pradesh	Sonbhadra Rae Bareli Unnao Sitapur Hardoi
12.	West Bengal	Purulia Jalpaiguri